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VOL. XXXVIII, No. 9

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1966

A LOOK AT VIETNAM

Your Simple War: Part 1

BY HOWARD MOFFETT

The Collegiate Press Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: Howard Moffett, 1965-66 editor of the Yale Daily News, is a full-time correspondent in South Viet Nam for the Collegiate Press Service.

In this article, the first in a two-part series, Moffett describes the social context in which the war in Viet Nam is being fought.

SAIGON (CPS) — Last year at this time I was writing editorials calling the American war in Viet Nam unjust, illegal and anti-democratic.

I could still make a case for the last two (it has occurred to me since that a just war is a contradiction in terms). But after a month in Viet Nam I am clear on one thing: nothing here is that simple, nothing is that black-and-white.

Those who talk about Viet Nam in these terms, and on the other hand those who mouth clichés about defending democracy and freedom against Communist aggression, have reduced one of the most complicated and agonizing situations in modern history to shibboleths. Worse, they have succeeded in making these shibboleths virtually the only terms of the public debate on Viet Nam.

The following analysis is quasi-

sociological. It may strike some as an intellectual game; I see it rather as an attempt to step back a bit and establish a frame of reference against some of the hazards involved in basing value judgments either on headline press reports or on personal political preferences.

It is based on three assumptions: (1) What is happening here is as important as what **should** be happening here; (2) What is happening may in the course of time affect what should happen, i.e., the use of power and the objective conditions to which it gives rise may either undermine or create a moral prerogative: morality, like power, is not static, and must sometimes be measured in relative terms; (3) Neither what is happening here nor what should be happening here are very adequately understood by most Americans.

There is a struggle going on in South Viet Nam between two groups of people, each of them numbering several millions: in effect they are two separate societies, co-existing within the same geographical boundaries. Each is trying to organize, strengthen and sanction itself while weakening and destroying the other.

Though each group numbers millions, they are both led by relatively small elites which have developed their own traditions, their own social values, and their own vested interests. The majority in each group are people who, through varying degrees of sophistication, are influenced by the traditions and values of their elite but have little stake in its vested interests.

They are people like civil servants, interested in salaries and a modicum of culture, personal freedom and opportunity for advancement; or merchants, interested in the free flow of trade and

YOUR SIMPLE WAR Page 2

'Streetcar Named Desire' Held Over At Trinity Square

Trinity Square Repertory Company's production of Tennessee Williams' **A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE** has proved to be such a hit at the box office that three extra performances have had to be added. Box Office Manager Newell Cook says evening performances have been added for Thursday, Friday and Saturday, December 8, 9, and 10.

"We've had sellouts on most evenings of the **STREETCAR** run," says Cook, "and it was imperative that we add the three performances in order to handle the demand." There will be no matinee performance on Saturday

the 10th. Originally, the production was slated to close December 3.

Reviewers have been unanimous in their praise of Adrian Hall's direction of the Williams work. "Revitalized" was one word used to describe the new interpretation. Hall has stripped production of much of the violence which flavored the original Elia Kazan production on Broadway 19 years ago. Reviewers and audiences alike have found that this adjustment, plus several others, has given **A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE** an immediacy and pertinence to the present day, and made the characters more compelling.

Honolulu's East-West Center Is An Experiment In International Education

HONOLULU — The East-West Center, an experiment in international education involving students from the United States, Asia and the Pacific, is offering 70 scholarships to Americans for the 1967-68 academic year.

Initially awarded for one year, these scholarships are for graduate work in Asia-Pacific area studies and languages at the University of Hawaii. Some qualified students may have their grants extended in order to complete their degree programs and are generally given an opportunity for study and research in Asian or Pacific countries as well as in Hawaii. Scholarships provide for transportation, tuition, room, board, some books and incidental expenses.

Through life at the Center, the more than 600 students from 30 nations learn about different cultures and often gain a deeper appreciation of their own.

The University of Hawaii (enrollment nearly 19,000) has long had an academic outlook toward Asia and the Pacific — a natural result of the multicultural heritage of the 50th state.

The East-West Center was established six years ago by the United States Congress in cooperation with the University. In addition to providing educational opportunities for graduate degree candidates, the Center sponsors non-degree academic and technical training programs. Still another program brings leading scholars of many countries to the Center as specialists-in-residence. A common goal of all Center activity is creation of a climate encouraging international understanding and good will.

Study, informal discussions and intercultural activities offered by the Center, the University and the Honolulu community are all part of what happens at the "Center

for Cultural and Technical Interchange between East and West," the official name of the Center.

Translated into the intensely personal reactions of three students at the Center, interchange can mean:

American: "The students from the Republic of China are much more studious, much more serious about education than we Americans."

Tongan: "I saw life as it really is in America. I was impressed with the value Americans place on work."

Malaysian of Chinese descent:

"My roommate from Pakistan prays five times a day. Islam is our national religion, but this is the first time I have seen a Moslem pray."

Students interested in working toward an advanced degree while taking part in this dialogue among cultures should contact the dean of the college for additional information, or write to the Director of Student Selection, East-West Center, 1777 East-West Road, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96822. Application deadline for the June or September, 1967, class is December 15, 1966.



THE EAST-WEST CENTER — Two of the East-West Center's complex of six buildings designed by architect I. M. Pei of New York are, left, Thomas Jefferson Hall, the administration building; and Hale Manoa, the men's residence.

East-West Center Photo

AT HARVARD AND RADCLIFFE:

Students Now Writing In Their Academic Fields

Cambridge, Mass. — (I.P.) — A new approach to writing is open to Harvard and Radcliffe students this fall in expanded options for General Education.

Beyond "freshman English" — which many students now complete in high school — students may write in the academic field that interests them. Three courses now offer the writing of history, of literary criticism, and of science. A fourth group will write narratives, both fact and fiction. In a fifth, on autobiography, each student — like John Adams and Emerson and other Harvard men of the past — will keep a journal, exploring the relation between personal experience and the generalizing process.

Typically, in the Natural Sciences, physicists this year designed one new course for students with little experience in science; another, on "Crystals, Quanta and Electrons," will appeal to students with a strong science back-

ground; in a third, students will meet the IBM 7094 computer while studying information theory.

In the Social Sciences, a limited number of students will explore "Current Problems in the Economics, Government and Sociology of the United States," "Power in America and the Market Economy," or "Fascism and the Far Right in the Twentieth Century."

In the Humanities freshmen may study "Oral and Early Literature" with the help of a battery of experts on different traditions; and those studying "Literature and the Practice of the Drama" will watch one play through the process of production at the Loeb Drama Center.

The landmark courses of General Education, meanwhile, continue popular. These are large lecture courses such as David E. Owen's "Introduction to the De-

HARVARD

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This Week At RIC

Today: CHAPLAINS SERIES: Topic: "Ayn Rand, Jean Paul Sartre and Jesus Christ." Speakers: **The Reverend Vincent C. Maynard**, Catholic Chaplain and **The Reverend J. Richard Peck**, Protestant Chaplain. 3:00 p.m. **YOUNG PEOPLES SOCIALIST LEAGUE.** Speaker: **David McReynolds**, Field Secretary of the War Resisters League. Amos Assembly Room 8 p.m. Clarke Science Building.

Thursday: FACULTY COLLOQUIUM: Speaker: **Professor Ballinger**. Topic: "What Happened at the World Court? Will the South Africa Case Now Lead to United Nations Intervention?" Alumni Lounge, Roberts Hall, 1:00 p.m.

BIOLOGY COLLOQUIUM: Speaker: **Professor Paul Weisz**, Department of Biological and Medical Sciences, Brown University. Topic: The Biological History of Man. Amos Assembly Room, Clarke Science, 4:00 p.m. **BASKETBALL:** R.I.C. vs. Southampton College, Walsh Gym, 8:15 p.m.

Saturday: HISTORY COLLOQUIUM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: Speaker: **Professor Kenneth Lewalski**, Chairman, Department of History. Topic: History, Time and Space Concepts. 9:30 a.m.

BASKETBALL: R.I.C. vs. Farmington State College. Walsh Gym, 8:15 p.m.

Official College Notices

FLU INNOCULATIONS

Dr. Clara Smith will give the second flu inoculation on Friday, December 16, between 12 noon and 2 p.m. in the Student Health Center, Alger-125. The cost of this shot will be \$.50.

Lawrence M. Stratton
Dean of Administration

A REMINDER TO SOME STUDENTS AND FACULTY

Please make sure your car has a College sticker if you bring it on campus. You may pick up a sticker when you register at Room 101 in the Student Center. There is no charge.

If you are tagged for this violation of College policies, there will henceforth be an additional charge of \$.25 to cover the cost incurred for having the Registry of Motor Vehicles look up this information for us. Thank you for your cooperation.

Pennell S. Eustis
Asst. Dean of Students

Psychology Research Unit Established At R.I. Med. Center

Intensive investigation of psychological and related problems in the area of geriatrics will be a primary concern of the Clinical Psychology Research unit, just established at the Rhode Island Medical Center. Announcement of the new unit was made recently by Augustine W. Riccio, the state's Welfare Director.

This new research unit will provide consultation for Medical Center personnel in such areas as the social psychological difficulties encountered by patients, in the transition from community to hospital living; ways and means of further activating patients on the wards; the psychological reactions of the aged to various medications.

Operating as a part of the Research and Education Department, under the direction of Mario Nicotro, M.D., Diplomate in Psychiatry and Assistant Superintendent of the Medical Center, the Clinical Psychology Research unit has been developed in cooperation with the University of Rhode Island.

The staff is headed by a Research Psychologist, Dr. Nelson F. Smith,

graduate of Princeton University and a professor in the Department of Psychology at U.R.I.; and includes a Clinical Psychologist, Mrs. Arlene Wang, M.A.; and four psychology research assistants, presently finishing studies for their Master's degree at the University of Rhode Island.

Dr. Lester Carr, Associate Clinical Professor at the University and Senior Coordinator of Psychological Services for the Rhode Island Department of Social Welfare is responsible for overall coordination and for the supervision of psychologists associated with the new research unit.

RIC Junior Class Sponsoring Mixer

The Junior Class of Rhode Island College will sponsor a college mixer in the Student Center, on December 2, from 8:00 to 12:00 p.m.

The musical group performing will be the "Hot Beats." Proper dress is required.

Identification cards from all colleges will be recognized.

JANUS NOTICE

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- A Note - From The Editor

This brief edition of *The Anchor* is being published to present several feature articles which may be of interest to our readers. Because of the brief week preceding Thanksgiving recess, it was not possible to publish our regular issue.

We urge our readers to advise us of their reaction to these feature articles. If there is sufficient response to the material in this issue we shall endeavor to publish more such articles.

We are particularly interested in knowing your reaction to the feature articles which have appeared of late on the war in Vietnam as we are contemplating subscribing to a special news service offering features on the Vietnam war each week.

Any suggestions will receive the full attention of the editorial board of *The Anchor*.



Howard Nemerov, noted Poet and Author reads from his poetry tonight at 8:15, in Brown University's Carmichael Auditorium.

Harvard

(Continued from Page 1)
velopment of Western Civilization," Samuel H. Beer's "Western Thought and Institution," Louis Hartz "Democratic Theory and its Critics," "The Epic and the Novel" taught this year by several literary scholars, "Ideas of Man and the World in Western Thought" by Philosophers Rogers G. Albritton and Stanley L. Cavell, and "Aspects of the Physical and Biological World," led by Leonard K. Nash.

Equally popular are newer lecture courses of George Wald on "The Nature of Living Things," David Riesman on "Character and Social Structure," Paul A. Freund on "The Legal Process" and Erik H. Erikson on "The Human Life Cycle."

Your Simple War: Part 1

(Continued from Page 1)

economic stability; or soldiers, interested in winning without getting killed, recognition for bravery and home leave; or farmers, interested in the weather, the market for pigs, owning their own land and being left alone. These people have been at war for over 20 years; almost all of them are interested in staying alive.

This is not to say that the majority in each group do not participate in the culture of their elites — they do, and often by choice. But it seems likely that in a showdown many in either group would be willing to dissociate themselves from their own elite and exchange its culture for that of the other, so long as their own popular and private interests were not seriously threatened.

In other words, the ideological and material interests of the two elites are not quite so important to their respective sub-groups, except where expert and intense propaganda has taken effect over

long periods of time (as it has in some areas on both sides). This means that fundamentally at issue within South Viet Nam are the traditions, social values and vested interests of two opposing elites, fighting to destroy each other's control over substantial portions of the population.

In such a situation, the distinction between being supported by and exercising control over different elements of the population is at best a hazy one. The question is illustrated by the importance that both sides attach to the concept of "infrastructure" or its equivalent in Vietnamese, *ha tang co so*. Broadly speaking, an infrastructure is any system of organized authority. Implicit in the concept is the idea that an infrastructure — whether at the hamlet or national level — cannot exercise control over people without having their support to a substantial degree. Conversely, if control can be established, support may be developed over time through popular administration.

The personnel of their respective infrastructures are the primary weapons in the power struggle going on here at every level between the government and the Viet Cong. Major elements of each infrastructure are devoted to strengthening it and weakening the opposing infrastructure (e.g., both sides lay great stress on the development of strong recruiting and propaganda teams, both practice selective assassination to destroy key links in the enemy's infrastructure). Furthermore, each infrastructure is said to be heavily infiltrated by agents of the opposing one. Significantly but not surprisingly, many Vietnamese believe that both Viet Cong and government village infrastructures are now much weaker than the traditional village power structure prior to the coming of colonialism or communism.

To gain its political — and cultural — ends, the elite infrastructure on each side has mobilized substantial portions of the population it controls. Each has developed weapons — technological, psychological, logistical — which are being tested wherever one side can find a weakness in the other. At the present time, one side has technological and logistical superiority within the contested area, whereas the other appears to enjoy psychological advantage. This is a struggle for power, and no holds are barred. The skill in highest demand is that of employing the appropriate weapon at the right time, whether it be a mortar or a lie.

The ANCHOR

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'The Waltz King' Shown Next Week

On Wednesday, December 7, there will be two showings of the film, *The Waltz King*. It is the story of Johann Strauss whose compelling desire to create beautiful music would not be thwarted by either adversary or parental opposition.

Kelwin Matthews, Senta Berges, and Brian Ahern head the cast of the film. The Vurno Symphony Orchestra enriches the sound track with twenty-two Strauss melodies. Running time is 94 minutes.

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